

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 10139

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE; PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: NATO, EGEN, UK, UR
SUBJECT: ECONADS: ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF UK FOREIGN
SECRETARY VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: A)USNATO 10055; B)LONDON 17090

1. AT OCTOBER 20 ECONADS MEETING UK REP EXPANDED
ON EARLIER REPORT BY UK PERMREP KILICK (REF A) ON
ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN'S OCTOBER
9-11 VISIT TO MOSCOW ALONG LINES OF PARA 10, REF B.
ECONOMIC ISSUES WERE TO HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH MORE
FULLY, BUT SUFFERED WHEN VISIT HAD TO BE CUT. THERE
WAS BRIEF MENTION OF NEED FOR GREATER ECONOMIC COOPERATION
IN OWEN'S DISCUSSION WITH BREZHNEV. AN HOUR-
LONG MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN KIRILLIN OF THE STATE COMMITTEE
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (ACCOMPANIED BY SUSHKOV,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE), DEALT MAINLY WITH
BILATERAL ISSUES, TO BE FOLLOW UP IN THE JOINT ECONOMIC
COMMISSION MEETING NEXT MAY. THE UK REP SAID THE SOVIET
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SIDE MADE NO MENTION OF CONSTRAINTS ON SOVIET
FOREIGN TRADE STEMMING FROM HARD CURRENCY OR CREDIT
PROBLEMS.

2. RECALLING THAT DURING THE BARRE VISIT TO MOSCOW THE
SOVIETS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE REQUESTED FRENCH EFFORT TO
IMPROVE THE BALANCE OF SOV/FRENCH TRADE, THE NORWEGIAN

REP INQUIRED WHETHER THE SOVIETS HAD MADE THE SAME BID TO OWEN. THE BELGIAN DEAN OF THE COMMITTEE POINTED OUT THAT THE FRENCH AND UK SITUATIONS WERE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT: THE FRENCH HAD A POSITIVE BALANCE AND THE UK A NEGATIVE BALANCE IN TRADE WITH THE USSR. CONSULTING HIS NOTES, THE UK REP SAID THAT INDEED IT HAD BEEN OWEN, RATHER THAN THE SOVIET SIDE, WHO RAISED THE BALANCE OF TRADE ISSUE. OWEN POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE UK SEEKS NO COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BALANCE, HE REQUESTED THE SOVIETS TO NARROW THE WIDE GAP BETWEEN THEM. NO SPECIAL EMPHASIS WAS PLACED BY EITHER SIDE ON THE OUTSTANDING 950,000,000 POUND STIRLING CREDIT OPENED FOR THE SOVIETS IN 1975, ALTHOUGH BOTH SIDES MENTIONED IT IN PASSING. GLITMAN

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